

## **Remarks by Commissioners:**

### **Representative Thomas Wright, Co-Chair**

“Truth is essential in helping formulate and shape one’s future. What an awesome task and privilege to Co-Chair the 1898 Wilmington Race Riot Commission. It is my sincere hope and desire that this significant piece of North Carolina history and American history would be acknowledged and identified as one of America’s pivotal points of change. I hope that we take the opportunity to learn from this historical fact and celebrate our diversities and our progress, thereby helping to yield better prosperity for all Americans.”

### **Irving Joyner, Vice-Chair**

“Senator Luther Jordan’s vision that a complete record of the 1898 Wilmington race and political rebellion be officially recorded has been accomplished. This report represents the most exhaustive review of the events, motivations and impacts of the most extreme manifestation of white supremacy in this State since slavery. In North Carolina, November 10, 1898 was the beginning of the total political and economic disenfranchisement of this State’s African-American community. The overthrow of the legitimately elected Wilmington City government and the resulting oppression of heretofore successful efforts by African-Americans to participate in the American dream was calculated as a signal to others around the State that North Carolina was to become another haven of white power and privilege and designed to reverse the loss of the Civil War. This white supremacy campaign was successful and repressed the political, social, educational and economic development and aspirations of African-Americans in this state for over ninety (90) years. Today, the State of North Carolina and other beneficiaries of this overthrow are obligated to repair the breach and the harm suffered by African-Americans during this period of repression.”

### **Ruth Haas**

“The Wilmington Race Riot Commission has worked diligently to call for relevant information; to review material that comprises the report; and to objectively assess the known facts, claims, and myths arising from the event of 1898. I am comfortable in supporting the findings and recommendations of the Commission as a result of this thorough process.”

### **Lottie D. E. Clinton**

“Prayer is the pain pill that helped me work through this challenge as a Commissioner, however, there were times when God decided to let me feel the pain and the reality of the 1898 Wilmington Race Riot. I could not believe that anyone would execute such a forceful, fatal, final deliberate act of cruelty toward a people within a Community who were unaware of their evil intent and purpose. Everyday we write our own History as we live our lives and act and interact with people. May the truth be told, may acceptance be complete, and may the healing be thorough for all the people, beginning now. "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." 3John 1:4”

### **John Haley**

"We can no longer pretend that the violence in Wilmington on 10 November 1898 was a race riot. Instead, it was the culmination of a well-orchestrated statewide campaign by white supremacists to intimidate, segregate, and depoliticize African Americans."

### **Alfred Thomas, M.S.W.**

“All the citizens of the State of North Carolina need to know the good, the bad, and the ugly relating to the 1898 race riot in Wilmington. It is now up to the state legislature to show what good can come from this incident. This final report shows the bad and the ugly.”